

MANAGER'S NEWSLETTER

May 27, 2016

BONNER GROUP

The Bonner Group reported on their first impression of the Hanchett site and suggested that a mixed use was preferable. The next steps will be to refine the information on the site and to develop a 'brochure' and marketing approach for the property before sending the opportunity to developers across the state. Within the next two months this material is expected to be completed and the marketing will begin in earnest.

AIRPORT

Meade and Hunt visited the airport this week to discuss a 'substitution' project for the 5000-foot runway. As the City had been saving funds for this major improvement – which did not receive the blessing of MDOT, the airport has accumulated around \$400,000 in state aid which needs to be used for airport improvements or returned to the state. The next important project at the airport is crack sealing on all runways, which is estimated at \$80,000. The next very large project on the books is the animal fencing at the airport which could run as high as \$700,000. Meade and Hunt will be putting together a meeting with MDOT to discuss getting started on these two improvements.

BALDWIN STREET BUSINESSES

Staff met with the Gypsy Nickel and the Sawmill Canoe livery to discuss the summer schedule and to review the business needs and how they will be affected by the bridge project. The City will be pressuring Toebe Contractors to make Swede Hill accessible so that tubers may be able to park there and leave room for regular parking for the Gypsy.

USDA

Paul Bristol visited town on Wednesday to discuss the Ives Street project and the potential monies that could come from the USDA to support this effort. A special thanks to Cindy Plautz is in order for the extraordinary effort that she is making on writing this grant application. Appreciation should also be noted for Todd Richter for the plans and specifications which Flies and VandenBrink has put together in only two weeks to meet the deadline for submittal this Friday.

SPECTRUM HEALTH

Spectrum is linking with the Farmer's Market to provide transportation for residents to purchase healthy foods. The DBA has long provided a DART ride to the Market to assist in bringing folks downtown and now Spectrum will provide DART tickets for the home trip as well. Spectrum is also providing incentives for individuals to purchase healthy fruits and vegetables at the market.

PARKS

Modifications are being made to the handicapped wheel chair swing to make it more efficient and effective. It is a great amenity in the park!!

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Violations:

- (2) Blight
- (2) Furniture
- (1) Garbage & Rubbish
- (18) Grass & Weeds
- (1) Permits
- (50) Signs
- (1) Swimming Pools
- (5) Uninhabitable Dwellings

PARKS & RECREATION

The Holland park committee met to discuss the final phase of the project. In the next month there will be sidewalks, electrical work and gardens being implemented in the park to prepare for the dedication on Saturday, August 6 at 1pm.

Attended a project Fresh training for the Farmer's Market.

The pool was cleaned and preparations are underway for the opening on June 6 at 1pm.

Girls on the Run will be holding the final event, the celebratory 5K walk/run. It will be on Saturday June 4 at 10am in the Bandshell and Hemlock Park.

PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES

DIAL-A-RIDE –

140 Adult Riders - (\$2.00 Fare)

380 Children Riders - (\$1.00 Fare)

784 (\$1.00 Fare) - Seniors (110) and Disabled (674) passengers of which 178 used the wheelchair lift to board

59 Free Riders - Aides that ride with disabled passengers and children 4 and under with an adult

32 No Shows - A person who calls for a ride and when we go to pick up and they are not there for ride

NO Safe Riders – Summer Break. No Safe Ride provided until September 8, 2016. Free rides from local establishments to anyone in the community on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights 12:00am to 2:30am.

NO Ferris Shuttle Bus – Summer Break. Free rides to anyone on Campus, The new route has nine stops on campus- Lot 28, Allied Health, Campus Community Center, Sports Complex, Lot 4, Rock Cafe', Recreation Center, University Center, Arts and Science, 7:30am -7:00pm Mon – Thur and 7:30 am – 2:00 pm on Friday.

1,395 Total Passengers

394 Out of City Riders - Anyone we pick up or drop off outside the Big Rapids City Limits

STREETS & PARKS –

Safety Topic: “Almost an Accident – Be Warned”

- Filled potholes
- Painted arrows on Ives and Stewart
- Began painting crosswalks downtown
- Repaired catch basin on Elm
- Picked up mural
- New curb on Waterloo & State
- Fixed 2 water stacks
- Fixed manhole behind JCPenney's
- Blacktop patch
- Painting wall in alley; preparing for mural
- Fixed some lights at City Hall
- Brined Industrial ball diamond
- Painted areas on outside east wall of City Hall building
- Removed silt fence in several locations within the parks
- Removed deceased animals from roadways
- Mowing and weed whipping
- Checked and jetted sewers per normal daily and call ins
- Picked up trash downtown and in parks
- Prepping ball fields for games

MOTOR POOL –

- Staff vehicles & Miscellaneous Equipment:
 - 321 pool pump serviced and replaced battery, delivered and set up
 - 107 dump truck, service call for no start, repaired the power to engine control module

- Busses:
 - 903, replaced parking brake shoes, and top rear brake light housing
 - 905, reattached fender flair
 - 906, replaced front brake rotors, pads, calipers and brake hoses, bleed air from brake system

- Police & Fire vehicles:
 - 403 police car, serviced
 - 411 staff car, replaced throttle pedal assembly, and replaced front brake rotors and pads
 - 1-7 fire truck, repaired fuel leak on injector pump

MAIN MAINTENANCE -

- MISS Digs
- Miscellaneous reads
- Repaired a water stack on Baldwin St

WATER PLANT –

Safety Topic: “Energized Electric Equipment Can Be Deadly”

- Started planning and exploring different methods of emptying our recycle basin for inspection.
- Mowed the lawn at the plant.
- Replaced mower blades.
- Worked with Jay Norris on some well issues believed to be a communication problem, within the SCADA system.
- Worked with Under Pressure who has arrived and started cleaning the exterior of our two reservoirs here at the plant.

Steve Sobers,

City Manager